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Reagan Urged to Probe Alleged U.S.-Barbie Link

By ROBERT L. JACKSON, *Times Staff Writer*

WASHINGTON—A prominent U.S. Jewish leader has asked President Reagan to appoint a special panel to investigate charges that American intelligence agents shielded Klaus Barbie, a notorious Nazi, from prosecution by the French after World War II, it was learned Wednesday.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler of New York, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, called for an inquiry based on statements by former U.S. intelligence analysts that Barbie, known as the "Butcher of Lyon," had received official American protection so he could provide U.S. offi-

cials with inside data on Soviet intentions in Europe.

Barbie, who fled from Europe to Bolivia in 1951, was extradited to France earlier this month after living 32 years in South America. Scheduled to stand trial for "crimes against humanity," Barbie has been accused of ordering 7,591 Jews deported to concentration camps and of executing 4,000 other French Jews and resistance fighters.

Schindler, in a letter to Reagan dated Feb. 11, cited recent press reports about Barbie and said a presidential panel should investigate "U.S. government links with the infamous Nazi war machine."

"It is high time that this entire matter be investigated and aired and any wrong corrected," Schindler said. "His organization represents 800 Reform Jewish congregations in the United States and Canada with 1.3 million members."

White House Assistant Press Secretary Mark Weinberg said Schindler's letter is under study and will be answered soon.

Erhard Dabringhaus, a university professor in Detroit and a former U.S. counterintelligence officer, said in an interview last week that he paid Barbie \$1,700 a month after the war and kept Barbie's hiding place secret from French officials who were searching for him. Dabringhaus said Barbie gave U.S. agents information about Soviet troop movements and nuclear technology.

Dabringhaus also said he doubts the accuracy of some of Barbie's reports, recalling that the ex-Gestapo agent once sold him information gleaned from a Yugoslav newspaper.

Dabringhaus said he knew of no U.S. policy to protect former Nazis but that his superiors ordered him to shield Barbie.